GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:536
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2016
Radioactive Waste Disposal from KNPP
Mohan Shri P. C.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government has any proposal to dump radioactive waste from Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) at the disused mines at Kolar Gold Fields in Karnataka;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether the Government is aware of the fact that Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) has filed an affidavit in Supreme Court stating that spent fuel will be dumped at abandoned mines at Kolar Gold Field;

(d)if so, whether the corporation has obtained prior permission from the Ministry before filing the affidavit;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to dispose the spent fuel and the safety measures to be adopted in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER"S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)No, Sir.

(b)Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c)NPCIL has not filed any affidavit in the Supreme Court mentioning that spent fuel will be dumped at the abandoned mines at Kolar Gold Fields.

(d)&(e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(f)Spent fuel is a valuable resource which is not disposed off but reprocessed to obtain fuel for the next stage of nuclear power programme. The small quantity of waste generated during the reprocessing is immobilized in glass matrix through a process called vitrification. The vitrified waste is stored for an interim period in a Solid Storage Surveillance Facility prior to its eventual disposal in geological disposal facility.

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